Recent Advances in Palm Horticulture

Introduction to the Workshop

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Palms (Arecaceae) are perhaps the most distinctive group of ornamental landscape plants, comprising a natural group that even lay people can readily identify. Palms are increasingly common in outdoor landscapes in tropical and subtropical regions and have long been favorites for interiorscapes everywhere. In the United States, landscape palms are common in Florida, California, and Hawaii, and their use is increasing in Arizona, Nevada, Texas, and many of the Gulf and south Atlantic coastal states. Palms are even being used outdoors in more temperate regions. However, palms differ significantly from other woody landscape plants in their biology, and these differences are reflected in their cultural needs and unconventional management practices. Fortunately, the last 25 years have seen a rapid increase in palm horticulture research. These articles discuss and summarize the most recent research-based information and developments in palm biology, seed propagation, planting and transplanting, nutrition and fertilizers, irrigation and water requirements, leaf removal and pruning, disease management, and the use of palms in temperate climates. This information is applicable to horticulturists, growers, extension agents, educators, and other professionals in the landscape and nursery industries.

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